

Methods for Bat Exclusion and Capture

I. Excluding bats from buildings used by humans

- A. Observe where the bats exit at dusk.
- B. Loosely cover these areas with plastic sheeting or bird netting, which will allow bats to crawl out and leave, but not re-enter.
- C. Conduct this activity between April and May or between August and September to prevent trapping young bats in the building (they are typically born in late May through June).
- D. Seal any openings larger than a quarter-inch by half-inch with caulk.
- E. Install window screens, chimney caps and draft guards beneath attic doors.
- F. Fill electrical and plumbing holes with steel wool or caulking.
- G. Ensure that all doors to the outside close tightly.
- H. For professional assistance, contact a company that has experience dealing with excluding bats from buildings so that humans, pets and bats are kept safe. For professional guidance, contact a Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) wildlife biologist. A directory of DGIF offices and information about bats in Virginia can be found at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

II. Individual bats found in living quarters when there has been no human or pet contact

- A. Allow the bat to find its way back outdoors by:
 - 1. Closing off the room,
 - 2. Turning on the lights,
 - 3. Opening all windows and doors, and
 - 4. Observing the bat until it leaves.
- B. If a bat does not leave the building:
 - 1. Wait for it to land,
 - 2. Wearing gloves, cover it with a coffee can or similar container,
 - 3. Slide a piece of cardboard under the can trapping the bat,
 - 4. Tape the cardboard tightly to the can, and
 - 5. Release it out-of-doors, away from populated areas and preferably after dark.

III. Capture of bats that may have exposed a person or pet

- A. Close windows and doors to the room and closets,
- B. Turn on lights if the room is dark,
- C. Wait for the bat to land,
- D. Wearing gloves, cover the bat with a coffee can or similar container,
- E. Slide a piece of cardboard under the can trapping the bat,
- F. Tape the cardboard tightly to the can, and
- G. Contact the local health department or animal control for additional guidance and assessment which may include testing the bat for rabies.

More information can be found at: <http://www.batcon.org/home/default.asp>,
<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/>.

Last updated: 12/29/2015